



KELOWNA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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2010 OPENING NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the 2010 soccer season!

Enclosed is your registration form. Please enter all players in your family on one form (two if more than four players per family.). If you require another form, feel free to photocopy the enclosed form or you may pick one up from Eurosport (3-1771 Cooper Rd – corner of Cooper & Enterprise). **Please note that registration deadline is January 25, 2010.** Players registering after this date will be placed on a waitlist and added to teams where numbers allow. One cheque/money order per family should be attached to the family registration form. **Late fees of \$15 per player become due after January 25.**

KYSA? COYSA? Who Are We?

Central Okanagan Youth Soccer Association (COYSA) has over 5000 children playing soccer. Playing under the COYSA umbrella are six associations: Kelowna United (select teams), Westside Youth Soccer Association, Okanagan Mission Youth Soccer Association, Rutland Youth Soccer Association, Lake Country Youth Soccer Association and **our local Kelowna Youth Soccer Association (KYSA)**. KYSA draws from families in the downtown, Glenmore, North Glenmore, Dilworth and south central Kelowna area. In 2009 we had 1105 registered players playing on 83 teams.

New families living outside the V1Y and V1V areas should register in Rutland or Mission. Those choosing to register in Kelowna will be placed on waitlists until all our own players are assigned, then will be added to empty spots as space allows.

Interested in Becoming a Referee?

Players 12 years or older wishing to become referees should check the COYSA website (www.centraloksoccer.com) for course information.

**DEADLINE FOR GUARANTEED
REGISTRATION IS JANUARY 25!!
DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED – SEND IN OR
DROP OFF YOUR FORMS TODAY!**

Board Members Needed!!

KYSA is looking for volunteers to help with the management and administration of the club. We are particularly interested in adding parents of our younger players (so they will be with us for a few years, hopefully!) The Board of Directors meets on the third Thursday of each month for a couple of hours. We do not meet in the summer. You do not need any technical soccer expertise to be on the Board. We spend a lot of time setting policy and direction for the club, and varying viewpoints always make for better decisions. If you are able to provide us with any assistance, please contact Brian at 762-3225 or email kysa@shaw.ca. There is a place on the registration form to indicate your interest in helping us out as an Board member.

Tax Credit Receipts for the 2009 Tax Year Are Included With Your Registration Package!

Look for Tax Receipts from the 2009 season for all eligible players (born in 1993 or later). These should be included with your 2009 Income Tax Returns as a Child Fitness Tax Credit. Family plan payments (\$280) have been divided among your children. Please contact Brian asap at the numbers listed above if there is an error in your tax receipt form.

How Are We Organized?

Our House Programs are divided into three age groups. Our U6 players are beginners, and they practice and play together at one site. Players in U7 – U10 play in the Mini-soccer program, and interlock with teams from other local clubs. The older age groups (Divisional League) will be combined in two year brackets (except at the U11 and U12 level.) This will result in combined age groups of Under 18, Under 16 and Under 14. This two year grouping means half the players on each team change over each season, as older ones move on, and younger ones move in to that division. KYSA's basic philosophy is to try to create teams of relatively equal ability, and balanced age group numbers per team.

How Do We Select Our Teams?

In mid-February we are required to declare the number of teams we have in each age group. After that is done, a committee of board members will be chosen to assign players to teams. All coaches were requested to evaluate each of their players at the end of last season. We will try to ensure that the teams are balanced in terms of player ability and experience. One criterion we will continue to use will be grouping some children together from the same area and/or school, in order to ensure some "familiar faces", especially among the younger ones. We will not be moving players between teams once they have been set. Please do not call to request a change. We are not permitted by BC Soccer to play children below their age groups unless specific medical issues exist.

How Committed Is Your Child?

Last season we experienced a significant problem with fielding full teams for many games and practices. Conflict with other sports and activities and lack of motivation or commitment by some players often led to teams being short of players and/or substitutes for games, or unable to provide consistent skill development activities at practices.

Please ensure your child's and your family's schedule allow time for a sincere commitment to soccer. If he or she has a rep hockey team that requires him to miss half the soccer season, perhaps that's where the total focus should be.

Our 2009 coaches have noted players not attending regularly, and we may need to make some special provisions for their placement to avoid teams having multiple players absent too often.

Can We Request a Specific Coach or Team?

It has become increasingly difficult to accommodate requests made on registration. KYSA Board of Directors' view is that the primary purpose of our youth soccer program is to ensure that all players improve their skills and have fun while doing it. To ensure this, we must provide teams that are balanced and competitive. This may entail reorganizing some divisions where there is obvious imbalance between teams. **We do not take requests to play with particular coaches or teams.** This year **we will not be taking requests to play with specific players.** No other clubs in COYSA, including indoor soccer, use these requests in team selection, as it often makes it very difficult to provide competitive balance. New coaches and new teams provide new opportunities for learning and for making friends. As COYSA refines its tiering process at the divisional level, it may be necessary to do some significant reorganization of our teams to provide competitive balance. Parents can help by encouraging their children to accept change as positive growth opportunities.

Divisional Team Sponsorships

All our teams up to U12 are generously sponsored by **Wendy's**. We are hoping to add additional sponsors to our U14 – U18 teams. We are looking for community minded businesses willing to take on a whole division (eg U14 boys and girls, or perhaps U16 girls). Costs would vary depending on the number of teams in each division. For more information, please contact Brian at kysa@shaw.ca

Zero Tolerance Policy on Abuse of Referees

A reminder to players, parents and coaches-- **COYSA has a zero tolerance policy for abuse of referees.** Referees start as young as 12 years old. They must take and pass a course in order to referee. Their experience comes on the field. Like our young players, our referees are learning their skills and gaining experience with each game. Nobody would (we hope!) accept a coach or a parent continually criticizing a young player, and pointing out every time they make a mistake on the field. In the same manner, we will not accept adults berating or belittling our youth referees who are doing their best as they learn the game. We try to provide clinics, we have hired a referee mentor to give them feedback during and after games. We have a difficult time retaining referees, losing many youth referees due to abuse by adults. Parents can help by modelling good sportsmanship and positive encouragement to our players and referees. Remember -- none of these games lead to a spot in the World Cup!

Check our website

www.kelownayouthsoccer.com for all the latest information related to KYSA!! News! Contact Info! Rules! Field locations! Get involved in KYSA!!